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POINT RICHMOND PROGRESS

"The Friendly Newspaper That Dares To Tell The Truth."

Volume One | Richmond, California, Friday, December 8, 1933 | Number Forty-Four

XMAS GIFTS EDITION

COMMENT

By the Editor

INFLATION and BOLOGNA—Shades of 1928, who would have considered Al Smith a "reactionary?" And yet his "boloney dollar" speech, stripped of persiflage, could just as well have been delivered by his acknowledged conservative one-time opponent, ex-President Hoover. Both now stand as champions of "things as they are" when the wealth of this nation is controlled by a few, and many are practically starving. Too much of such reaction will be the "straw that breaks the camel's back" and then the sooner we plunge into a debacle such as Germany had, and a lot of the big fortunes gained by graft and watered stock are wiped out the better it will be for 123,000,000 people in this country. Remember this: The wealth of this country is not dependent on the relative value of the dollar. There will be just as much oil in the ground, and grain on the farms, and lumber in the forests, if the dollar is worth a penny or worth a double eagle. But if the boys who have the big money now are going to continue to be miserly, and try to block President Roosevelt's program, then, look out! and it doesn't take a Paul Revere to tell what's going to happen.

REPEAL—"Al" was right on repeal of the 18th Amendment, however. At least he had the courage to come out against it when it was not popular to do so. Where was Willie Hearst then, that great Apostle of Expediency, who like little dog Fido now sees his chance to bark at the heels of his ancient enemy, Al Smith? The great (?) publisher should study Hebrews 13: 8. Where does he stand on NRA: yesterdny? today? tomorrow? Or on any other question unless it is horse-racing when the mist of Tia Juana seems to

(Continued on Editorial Page)

Big Shooting!

RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS DO MANY TO DEATH

Targets Are Objective!

The customary quiet of the windward side of Point Richmond's potrero was shattered Wednesday afternoon by the staccato of many revolvers in the hands of Richmond police officers.

The targets caught h—avoc, no less, and when the smoke had cleared away and the wind-swept paper "stiffs" had been assembled, the final pistol scores of the regular weekly practice were noted as follows:

On the Standard American Targets: H. T. Craycroft, 255; J. R. Arbuckle, 249; E. M. Logan, 235; R. S. Middleton, 228; C. E. Haines, 204; G. W. Bengley, 192; and T. D. Floyd, 165. Police Chief L. R.

(Continued on Last Page)

EASTERN STAR ORDER INSTALLS OFFICERS

Installation of the newly elected officers for Point Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star took place at a beautiful ceremony at the Masonic Temple last night.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith became the worthy matron to be assisted by Associate, Helen Genzel; secretary, Mary Moyle; treasurer, Ruby Harrison; conductor, Katherine Odell, assistant, Lorene Craycroft. Worthy Patron is Joel Bottom, p. p., and Chaplain, Herbert Harrison, p. p. Star points are: Ada, Helen Penney; Ruth, Eva Doney; Esther, Rose Friesendorf; Martha, Marie Peterson; and Electa, Olga Lee. Marshall is Rose Dingle, p. m. Organist, Thankful Perault; Warder, Louise Wilson and Sentinel, Clarence Odell. Mrs. Elizabeth Hillyer is retiring Past Worthy Matron and the Installation Ceremonies were conducted by Jeanette Bottom, p. m.

(Continued on Last Page)

Dr. Nielsen Chosen As Leader By Point Masons

Dr. C. M. Nielson, the Point Richmond dentist, has been elected by his fellow members to lead Point Lodge of Masons in the coming year. As Worshipful Master he will be assisted by the wardens, Senior, John Battaya and Junior, Clarence Peterson. C. J. Peterson will be secretary and Arthur S. Whitesides, treasurer. They were elected at the stated meeting last Friday night and installation will take place sometime in January, the date to be announced later.

John Battaya put on the banquet as only our good friend, "John Bet Cha" can!

Fox Theatre

Tonight and Saturday, Clara Bow in "Hoopla" also "F. P. I." (Floating Platform No. 1). Sun. to Wed., Mae West in "I'm No Angel" with Cary Grant. Thurs., "Hell and High Water."

Point Richmond stores as well as those downtown are putting on gala holiday attire for the coming of Christmas and many are the splendid presents that are now on display and will be in some lucky one's stocking when St. Nick comes down the chimney.

Every line of business, from the delicate perfumes and gifts for Milady at Palmateer's Pharmacy and men's wear at Gust. Allyn's or the more practical household gifts at Perault's hardware is represented. Among the grocery stores, the Liberty Market and Chasseur's have food fit for a king and Martin's Bakery as well.

Up town in Richmond it would be more difficult to name the many stores which can sell you everything not purchaseable at the "Point," but we should like particularly to call attention to the fine Christmas and toys display of the J. C. Penney Co., Wolffs Jewelry, Rae's Bargain Store, Ben Malik, Roslyn Dress Shop, Karl's Shoe Store, and the many others who appreciate business from Point folk to the extent of advertising in our Point newspaper.

Buy in Point Richmond if you can, and at any rate don't go further than Richmond if you have the spark of community spirit that is necessary even in this holiday time to put Point Richmond out in front where it belongs. This is the finest spot in the world to live and enjoy Christmas, if you only know it. The world is beginning to notice we do not care for "peanut busses," that we do have a Western Drive, and other things. Stick by the ship and buy at home.

WEST SIDE WOMENS IMPROVEMENT CLUB ENJOYS XMAS MEETING

Mrs. J. H. Huff of Washinton Avenue, was hostess for the annual Christmas party of the W. S. W. I. Club at her home last Monday afternoon. A large attendance of twenty-two gathered to plan for Christmas gifts for the needy. Mesdames Carrie Spiersch, J. C. Eaton and Marie Ceridono assisted the hostess on the committee.

P.T.A. Prize Whist

If you appreciate the splendid work that is being done for our children and our teachers at the Washington School by our West Side P. T. A. do not fail to buy a ticket and attend the card party that is to be given by the ladies next Tuesday afternoon at the school.

Mrs. Baker is chairman of the committee and has arranged for a box of groceries for a door prize as well as many other fine prizes which are now on display in G. J. Allyn's show window, 130 Washington.

The P. T. A. under Mrs. Dingle's leadership is ging along fine this year. Everyone should help.

George Creel Will Speak In Richmond

Appearing before a Contra Costa County audience for the first time, George Creel, "big shot" of the N R A in Northern California is scheduled to speak to a large audience at the Lincoln School Auditorium next Friday night, December 15th.

He will propably be accompanied by John V. Lewis, Collector of Internal Revenue, and as the two have but recently returned from Washington, D. C. first hand information about the NRA, liquor control and other mooted subjects is expected to be the order of the evening.

George Creel, a nationally known writer, was President Woodrow Wilson's right hand man in publicity during the World War, and the Federal Club of Contra Costa County under whose auspices he will speak is to be complimented for arranging the open meeting. Everyone is invited, and the well-known Richmond Maennerchor and Helen McCarthy Burt, coloratura soprano will sing. Don't forget, Friday, December 15th, 8:15 p. m. at Lincoln School Auditorium.

Famous Dancing Team at Ha Ha

Parro and Florence, the European dancers are being featured at Richmond's new and famous night club.

MANY TICKETS BEING SOLD ON HOPE CHEST FOR TRINITY LADIES GUILD

It does seem as if good things are appreciated after all, as the ticket sale is splendid for the lovely hope chest filld with household linens which is being raffled off by the Trinity Ladies Guild. However, the cause is so good that it is hoped before the final drawing that everyone will hold a ticket.

Point Man Licensed to Wed

The old tailor sat on a stool in cussing the news of the marriage license of Segundo Amentite, 228 Bishop Avenue, and Miss Irma Candelo of Delfino Street. "I knew all those Amentite boys when they were kids and used to come by and shout, 'Hello Tailor,'" mused our philosophic friend, the tailleur d'abit. "And now Segundo is the last of the boys to grow up and get married." Well, congratulations to both of the young people from the Progress.

THE FOURTH LOVELY LADY

BY THERESE BENSON

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THE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING

Following the wedding of her niece, Cintra, Matilda Smith Lovely ("Smif"), youngest and physically the weightiest of the four Lovely sisters, finds herself in decidedly straitened circumstances. She has made plans for the future, however, which she refuses to divulge to her sisters, prominent figures in New York society. The Lovely estate, Lovelylea, in Virginia, is owned by Smif's brother, Bill-Lee, but he is living in Chile, while the estate is rented to a Mr. Johnstone Nesbit. Smif's dearest wish is to own Lovelylea. As "Madame Saitou" she establishes herself as a "Little Sister of the Rich," a consultant. Smif has a client who, from his unconventional manner, promises to be interesting. He desires to evade the loverlike pursuit of an extraordinarily stout lady whom he refers to as Mercy. Later, the lady in question, Miss Martha Washington Mercedes comes.

CHAPTER IV—Continued

—6—

("Cries easily," Smif registered mentally. "I wonder how much her feelings really amount to?")

The next moment she called herself hard-hearted, for Mercy raised streaming eyes to hers and spoke with telling simplicity.

"Please believe me and help me. I didn't know people felt this way when they were in love. Maybe no one ever did before," she suggested hopefully.

"Well, your condition is not absolutely unique. Nor should I call it hopeless."

"I'm afraid you will when you hear all about it," Miss Mercedes sniffed. "I'm desperate. Johnny absolutely hates all fat women. I've put on a little weight lately and since then he certainly avoids me. There's no mistaking that."

A little weight!

"You should never have allowed yourself to grow so large."

Mercy pouted as if she were a chidden child.

"I've such a wonderful cook," she murmured with a guilty look.

"Discharge her."

"Oh, I couldn't do that. My dinners are celebrated."

"Then don't eat them."

"In that case Lucinda would leave of her own accord. She has often told me that she wouldn't stay with a lady who didn't appreciate her food. Anyway, I've a tiny appetite. It can't be what I eat that makes me fat. Really, I take only enough to keep my strength up. Emotional as I am, and under such a fearful strain, I need nourishment. You do see that, Madame Saitou?"

"H'm," Smif pondered the point. Plain to her was the fact that Miss Mercedes was a gourmet and probably a glutton. "In that case the only thing to do is to keep Lucinda and you apart for a time."

"You mean that I ought to stay here and reduce? And not see Johnny for ages—How could I bear it? Oh, Madame Saitou, is that all you can think of to help me?"

"It may not be all I can think of—at least it's the most obvious remedy, isn't it?" Smif smiled. "If the gentleman preferred you as you were before, it would seem only to be necessary now to remake yourself more nearly to his heart's desire."

Miss Mercedes' tears stopped.

"How beautifully you do say things," she beamed. "I must 'remake' myself 'more nearly to his heart's desire?' I think that's very lovely."

Since time was pressing, it did not seem worth while to point out that Fitzgerald had done more justice to Omar's thought. Smif began to sum up:

"As I understand your case, the only obstacle between you and your lover is your size. What is called for is self-denial on your part. I should not think of advising either diet or treatment. The most I should be willing to do is to suggest a physician who to my knowledge has been successful in similar cases."

Miss Mercedes now exhibited an unsuspected trace of native shrewdness.

"If you don't mind my asking, have you gone to him yourself?"

As Smif could read in her face that she had, her visitor did not think highly of the result, she permitted herself a broad grin.

"No, I've never taken any treatment. I can't afford to. My time is too valuable."

"H'm," said Miss Mercedes speculatively.

"If you wish me to do so, I'll call the doctor this afternoon and speak about the case. If he says he can help you, I'll make an appointment for you and it will then be possible for you to decide for yourself whether it is worth while to begin his treatments."

"H'm," said Miss Mercedes again, "I've got a better idea than that."

"You have?" said Smif.

"I have an idea that's nothing short of an inspiration," Miss Mercedes began firmly. "I only hope you'll agree to it." Smif waited expectantly and she went on: "You see, money's practically no object to me. I've plenty of my own, and for the last four years I've not begun to spend my income. Then Johnny's simply rolling. If I marry him I never mean to consider the price of anything again as long as I live. So, looking at this as a business proposition, it may pay me to find out what this treatment is worth before I try it on myself."

"What is your idea?"

"To try it on you," Miss Mercedes answered simply.

"If I find him successful with you, it will give me confidence that he will be with me, too."

Smif's opinion of Mercedes' common sense, which had been low, was rising with every word she said now that the subject of her love affair was left in the background.

"Sorry," said Smif briefly, "we'll let the matter drop. I do not find myself interested in your proposition. Suppose I give you Doctor Blanton's address and you can make arrangements with him or not as best suits you. Any good man would probably do as well for you, but I happen to have confidence in him."

"You think there is no other course open to me? What about mental science of some sort? Absent treatment? The power of mind over matter? I must do something. I'd go through anything for Johnny's sake; it's only that I've made up my mind I want to see the result of treatment given some one else before I submit to it." Mercy whispered, yet it was evident that with her a mind made up was a mind made up once and for all time, and Smif was becoming bored.

"Really, Miss Mercedes," she began, "I do not believe that you should have any difficulty in finding some one who would accept an offer such as you suggested if you added a small fee. I cannot help you there."

"Why won't you do it?"

"Because I'm a business woman whose time has a very definite value. Moreover, I am by no means sure my size is not an asset in my business. There is something about it that inspires confidence. I might be making a mistake to reduce. At all events it would require a large bribe to induce me to run the risk."

"Very well," Miss Mercedes ejaculated in trembling tones, giving way with surprising suddenness. "You shall name your price."

"Nor shall I undertake it except under a written agreement," Smif warned her, recognizing her client's vacillating disposition. "I shall expect ten thousand dollars. Moreover, to be fair to both of us, payment must be half in advance, half at the termination of Doctor Blanton's treatments. That is, when he has reduced me to what he decides to be a normal weight."

"How do I know that will make you slim enough? I want to be really slender; girlish, you know." Miss Mercedes was wabbling again.

"I can't guarantee that," Smif returned calmly. "I refuse to take off a pound more than Doctor Blanton regards as safe. Really, Miss Mercedes, don't you think you are wasting time? What you require is some one more tractable than I—also cheaper," she added with a hint of contempt; for, after all, Smif was a Lovely with a Lovely's disregard for money, when she had it. And Miss Mercedes sensed this, growing more eager the moment she feared Smif was inclined to draw back.

"I'll sign your agreement," she announced. "I'll pay anything in reason. Please have the paper made ready and I will make you out a check. It's a proof of my love for Johnny," she added, her voice trembling. "And I look on it as an investment," she ended, her practicality again to the fore.

So said, so done, and Miss Mercedes wended her weighty way toward the elevator.

CHAPTER V

SMIF looked forward with an amount of interest that she found surprising to her approaching interview with the person she still designated to herself as the gunman. On his behalf she was tempted to order a more substantial luncheon; yet, after all, why should she? She had not invited this guest.

Finally she compromised. Three sandwiches and an apple were to be brought to her as usual, while Buttons was told to hold a larger supply in reserve.

The man arrived promptly and ushered himself out to the lounge without ceremony.

Buttons followed with a small plate of sandwiches, regarded by the gunman with extreme disfavor.

"Are those a joke?" he demanded before he saw the twinkle in Smif's eyes, after which the rest of the banquet was quickly forthcoming.

"Well, why don't you talk?" he asked, doing full justice to the sandwiches the while.

"I was meditating on the inequalities and injustices of this world. If I consumed a tithe of what you do, the only scales I could be weighed on would be a hay scales; and I suppose the same is true of Miss Mercedes."

"Don't fool yourself or let her fool you. Lucinda's best customer is her mistress. And Lucinda's an artist."

"So I was given to understand," Smif said dryly. "I judge that if Lucinda's masterpieces were less tempting Miss Mercedes might be less colossal."

"What you'd like to say is, if Miss Mercedes were not such a pig Miss Mercedes might be less colossal."

"Really," said Smif, lifting her eyebrows and with difficulty restraining her laughter, this man with the emerald horseshoe was, after all, so like a rather naughty little boy, "that is not the way a gentleman should talk about a lady, is it?"

"I can't see that." He compressed his lips stubbornly. "If a lady acts like a pig, I think a man should be free to mention it; judicially and without ill-feeling, you understand. But then what should I know about it? I don't pretend to be a gentleman. You didn't think I was one, did you?"

"Dear me, no!" Smif answered. "I had it on good authority that you were a gunman. Don't you want to hear of my interview with Miss Mercedes?"

"Not particularly."

"And that is just as well," she told him crushingly, "because I have no intention of telling you anything."

"I Don't Pretend to Be a Gentleman. You Didn't Think I Was One, Did You?"

"I was sure you hadn't," Johnny rejoined.

"How could you be certain I would say nothing about Miss Mercedes? I thought she was your excuse for coming here." Smif was disturbed. She preferred playing with people to having them play with her.

Her guest beamed at her. "Any excuse that brings me here is good enough for me."

This was sheer frivolity. Smif pounded on the arm of her chair in exasperation. "Listen to me. I insist that you remember that I am a business woman engaged in a serious business enterprise."

"And I am one of your customers," Johnny said soothingly. "You can't get away from that. I engaged you to keep me from being married by Mercy."

"You didn't engage me to do that, because I should have refused such an engagement. I said I would see if I thought I could help you. Well, if that's the only help you want, I can't and won't, so there!"

"I never believed that you'd go back on a bargain."

"So far as that goes, I haven't. You acknowledged that you are fond of her. You said that if she were not so fat you wouldn't mind—"

"That was my fatal desire to palm myself off on you as a gentleman. D—n it all, I won't marry her and have to sit opposite her watching her gobble Lucinda's glorious food day after day. Just tell me this, is that mammoth planning to reduce? Is that what you're driving at?"

"She isn't yet, not until I've shown her that it is possible."

And then this astonishing man astonished her again.

"But you aren't fat," said he.

Smif regarded him with incredulous wonder gradually merging into belief. The man actually appeared to mean it.

"Never say again that you aren't a gentleman," she remarked at last. "The first requisite is to be able to lie magnificently and spontaneously. I congratulate you."

"I don't mean you aren't big," Johnny began to explain laboriously, apparently quite uninterested in her view of the most essential qualification for a gentleman. "When I say fat I refer to something soft and boneless, a shape of blanc mange that hasn't quite solidified—in fact, Mercy! You can't be fat, because I like you, and I simply hate fat people. I always have."

Giving this knock-down argument time to sink in, he went on with his sandwich. Having finished the first half, he resumed: "And that isn't the only reason I like you, either. I liked you from the first moment I saw you. You reminded me at once of my great-grandmother."

Smif gurgled: "I've been compared to Kwan-Yin, to the Sphinx, to the Buddha at Kamakura, but never, never before to anybody's great-grandmother."

"It's a great compliment," said Johnny; "I hoped you'd appreciate it."

"I know it is. It is unique. In fact, it has gone to my head," Smif gasped, keeping right on laughing because she was unable to stop.

"You're a very trying girl," the gunman declared severely.

This was too personal for his hostess.

"I am Madame Saitou," she bristled.

"Pooh!" said Johnny. "That's just a business name. It doesn't mean a single thing."

"You know nothing about it—"

"Oh, yes, I do. I tipped Buttons a dollar and asked him if you were married. Thank God, I'm no gentleman! That's saved you the trouble of saying it."

"Well then," said Smif, "it's true enough.—What is it?" Buttons stood apologetically in the doorway.

"They's a lady here, Madame, Mrs. Stannard. She says she's your sister and insists she must see you."

"Tell Mrs. Stannard that I have not a moment to give her now but that I am to meet Mrs. Carter at Pierre's and shall be very glad if she will have tea with us there at five."

Buttons saluted and took his departure.

She turned back to Johnny to find him pointing a finger at her accusingly.

"Mrs. Carter—Mrs. Stannard"—he stammered—"they're your sisters. Then you must be the youngest of the family. Matilda Lovely."

"Correct enough, although I don't publish my pedigree on my business card." She was ruffled, as her next remark betrayed. "I am curious to know how you came to ferret it out."

"I didn't ferret it out!" Natural resentment colored his voice. "I didn't have to. You didn't take the Family Bible with you when you left Lovelylea. You're all down in it, and when I saw a marriage in the paper I filled the date in after the name. . . . I mean to buy Lovelylea—"

A light had broken over Smif's face only to darken again.

"You're Johnstone Nesbit!" she exclaimed.

He nodded.

"The tenant of Lovelylea, and as you must have heard a hundred times, no gentleman."

Silence fell between them.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Graduation Night Frolic

The Marcyes Melody Monarchs will play for the Graduation Frolic to be given at the Peralta Club on December 20th. Dancing and dining will feature the entertainment by this six piece orchestra which is rapidly coming into favor.

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POINT BAPTIST LUNCHEON TODAY SUCCESSFUL

A large attendance gathered at the Point Baptist Church today to enjoy a fine luncheon prepared by the ladies. Fancy presents of handiwork were received by many of those present.

Errol Lane to Head Sciots

Our good friend, Errol Lane, has been named Toparch of that lively bunch of Sciots in Richmond and those two "pointers" Al Cundy, mobib, and R. H. "Dick" Spiersch, board of control will back him up. Dr. George Boehmer, armeses; James Arbuckle, pastophoro, and Police Chief L. E. Jones and Carl Alexander, trustees, complete the officers for 1933. Everett C. Lambrecht is retiring Toparch.

The "Hoo Hoos" will be in charge of the big whist to be given at Richmond Clubhouse next Friday night, December 15th. The public is invited and a large crowd will attend. Turkeys, one for every three tables, will be prizes and many others.

Mr. V. Marchisio, of the Torino Bakery, attended the opera "La Forza del Destino" at San Francisco Saturday night.

Practical Christmas Gifts For Men

Pigskin Gloves	2.50	Arrow Trump Shirts (White and colors)	1.95
Handkerchiefs	25c; 35c; 50c	Cameron Sun-proof Shirts (Blue, Tan, Gray, White)	$2
Sweaters	2.95 and up	Crown Pajamas (Broadcloth or Flannel)	1.95
Neckwear & Hdkf. Sets	$1,1.50	Allen-A Hosiery	35c;50c;75c
Suspenders	50c; 65c; 1.00	Scarfs	1.50 & 1.95
Penn Craft Hats	5.00	Lounging Robes	3.95 and up
Stetson Hats	6.50		

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SUNBRITE CLEANSER
3 for 10c

GRAPEFRUIT, Fancy Florida	No. 2 can 10c
SNOWDRIFT	3 lb. can, 46c; 1 lb. can 17c
TOASTED WHOLE WHEAT, I. G. A.,	pkg. 21c
GELATINE DESSERT, I. G. A.	3 pkgs. 14c
COCOA, I. G. A.	2 lb. can, 23c; 1 lb. can 14c
CRYSTAL WHITE SOAP	5 bars 13c
SOAP, PEET'S Crystal White Granulated, Jg. pkg.	21c
SANIFLUSH	can 15c

MEATS

Veal Roast lb. **12c**

Loin of Pork Roast lb. **19c**

HAM HOCKLESS PICNIC lb **19c**

CHEESE MONTEREY JACK . . lb. 16c

OLEOMARGARINE Gem Nut
2 1 lb pkgs 15c

CALIROX FRUIT COOKIES	Reg. 20 pkg. 14c
DURKEE'S SALAD OIL	1 quart can 31c
SUGAR, Pure Cane Granulated	10 lb. bag. 49c
COFFEE, I. G. A., "T" Blend	1 lb., 25c
" " "G" Blend	1 lb., 23c
COFFEE, I. G. A., De Luxe Brand	1 lb., 27c
MILK, All brands in stock	3 tall cans 17c
CATSUP, I. G. A.	2 - 14 oz. bottles 23c

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STAR DUST
MOVIE AND RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

JOAN CRAWFORD has been having a lovely time in New York, though she's been photographed and followed wherever she went; on a recent shopping tour of one store a crowd of five hundred people dogged her footsteps from the moment she entered the store until she left it.

There are rumors about her that have nothing to do with this New York vacation, or with the report that she will marry Franchot Tone. It's said that her latest picture, "Dancing Lady," is no world beater, and that her last five haven't made the executives of her company any too happy, from the financial point of view. Her salary is huge, of course.

So—it's also reported that she way be gently "eased out"—rented to other companies, perhaps, or not given much to do, so that when her company lets her go she won't be too strong a competitor if she signs with someone else.

—*—

All this seems hard to believe. Joan Crawford has such an army of devoted followers all over the country that an innocent bystander would expect all her pictures to be a success at the box office, whether they're particularly good or not.

Be all this as it may, she and Mr. Tone were the guests of honor at a very swanky tea the other day, given by the son of Mr. Chrysler of automobile fame, with the stage, the screen and society furnishing the guests.

—*—

Of course you've been reading in the newspapers about Mr. Bullitt, the first American ambassador to the new Russia.. But—did you know that he was story editor for Paramount, about thirteen years ago?

—*—

With Sandra Shaw (born Veronica Balfe) and Gary Cooper around town, there's plenty of talk. The gossips keep referring to the Countess di Frasso (born Dorothy Taylor), who, they say, introduced Gary to famous folks both here and in Europe, making a man of social standing of him, as well as a movie cowboy.

And now, they claim, he's making the most of his social rating, but with Miss Shaw, not the countess, as the lady of his heart. And they don't like it.

There are plenty of answers. Those who make them say that the countess wanted to run his movie career as well as his social one, and point also to the fact that Miss Shaw was a popular debutante in New York before she went to Hollywood.

—*—

Kate Smith has been appearing in person at a local theater; after sitting through her performance I'm in favor of her appearing only on the air. She doesn't seem to mind being so fat, but everybody in the audience did.

—*—

If your minister urges you to see "Little Women," don't be surprised. Clergymen of all denominations are talking to their congregations about the picture—and oddly enough, the most sophisticated people in New York are recommending it too.

The other Saturday there was a line that filled the sidewalk and stretched about a block, waiting to get into the theater. The lobby was jammed. Across the street was another crowd, waiting for a chance to stand in line to wait to buy tickets. There were mounted policemen and foot policemen as well, trying to control the crowd.

Once, after everybody had moved up, somebody found a pair of shoes on the sidewalk. They were taken to the "lost and found" office in the theater. A little later, a small girl came to the office.

"Did you find mamma's shoes?" she asked.

The attendant gave them to her, and then asked if mamma had been carrying them.

"Oh, no," the child said. "She had them on, and when the crowd pushed they came off. But mamma had been standing in line so long that she wouldn't give up her place to find her shoes, so she just went in in her stocking feet."

—*—

After seeing Mae West's "I'm No Angel," it's grand to know that record-breaking crowds will turn out for a clean, decent picture like "Little Women."

—*—

Colleen Moore and Micky Neilan are perfectly happy. They're making pictures together again.

Their friendship dates back to the days when Colleen was given her first chance to make a hit on the screen, in a picture Micky was directing. She was much upset, recently, when it looked as if she'd have to take off for Hollywood at any minute, to begin work on a picture there. For the Neilan picture is being made in the East, and the one thing she wanted was to work in that picture, because Micky wanted her for his leading woman.

—*—

Movie people who have made pictures in Mexico say there's always trouble when a company works there; they sympathize with Lee Tracy, saying that, no matter what he did, he was really made the goat for a lot of other people who haven't liked Mexico.

Meanwhile it's said that Lee is out of pictures, for a while at least, and will head east and appear in a stage play. Also it's reported that he'll marry Isabelle Jewell, who's more in love with him than ever.

—*—

ODDS AND ENDS. . . . The Yacht Club Boys claim to have discovered both Vincent Lopez and Jimmy Durante, and started them on the road to fame and a lot of money. . . . Mitzi Green's around town. . . . Did you know that Charlie Chaplin's yacht is registered in Paulette Goddard's name, because, though he's still officially an Englishman, he wants it to fly an American flag? . . . Warren William, after spending two weeks in New York, has returned to the coast; he'll appear in "Upper World," taking the role that Edward Robinson turned down. . . . Robinson also doesn't want to do "Napoleon" just now, right after "Dark Hazard"—has the studio executives running around in circles, looking for something he will accept.

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"The Commoner"

The sobriquet "the Commoner" was applied to William Jennings Bryan early in his political days because of his championing of the cause of the common people. After the election of 1900 he established at Lincoln, Neb., a political magazine of wide circulation which he named the Commoner.

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Danger lurks in boils and old sores. Don't delay! Apply "Carboil," the great American Salve that soothes pain immediately and in a few days, your trouble is healed. Get Carboil from any druggist, or send 50c to Spurlock-Neal Co., Dept. L, Nashville, Tenn., and get relief or get your money back.

SKIN IRRITATIONS

Itching of eczema, ringworm, chafing, pimples, minor burns, etc., quickly relieved by soothing

Resinol

POTPOURRI

Most Hideous Animal

What is said to be the most hideous of all living animals is the mandrill. It is a ferocious member of the baboon family and inhabits West Africa. It grows to huge proportions. Even when kept in captivity until full grown it remains very savage. They live in groups and walk on all fours.

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CHILDREN'S STORY

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

REDDY FOX CALLS ON BILLY MINK

DID you ever try to call on Billy Mink? If so, you know just how difficult it is. Billy is about the hardest person to call on I know of. Of course it wasn't as hard for Reddy Fox as it would be for you or me, but even Reddy didn't have an easy time of it. He called a number of times before he found Billy. You see, he didn't know exactly where Billy Mink's house was. Billy had managed to keep that a secret. But he did know some of Billy's favorite places and it was one of these that Billy visited over

"Ho, Billy Mink!" Cried Reddy.

and over again before he even got a glimpse of Billy.

At last he caught a glimpse of Billy, and putting on his most pleasing manner, called to him. He knew that if Billy didn't choose to stay he could vanish in the twinkling of an eye, and he didn't intend to offend Billy if he could help it. It so happened that Billy was engaged in eating a fat trout, and so for the time being he actually was quiet.

"Ho, Billy Mink!" called Reddy, not drawing too near lest Billy should think his feast was in danger and should run away. "You are just the fellow I want to see."

"Well, here I am. Look at me all you want to," grunted Billy rather ungraciously between bites. "But don't come any nearer," he added.

Reddy grinned. "I won't," said he. "I won't, although that fish is a great temptation. It's not your fish, but something else that I want from you, Billy."

Billy Mink stopped eating long enough to stare at Reddy Fox suspiciously. Seeing that look of suspicion Reddy chuckled. "It is just a little information," said he. "That is all I want—just a little information. I'm sure you will be willing, quite willing, to give me that."

"That depends on what kind of information you want," retorted Billy with great promptness. "There are some things I wouldn't tell you for anything in the world. If it is information about me or any of my affairs you want, you won't get it. I can tell you that right now. Asking will be wasting breath."

Reddy chuckled more than ever. "Just as if I didn't know that, Billy Mink!" he exclaimed. "I wouldn't think of asking you anything personal because I learned long ago that to do a thing like that would be foolish and a waste of time. I have too much respect for your smartness to try a thing like that, even if I wanted to."

Billy Mink looked pleased in spite of his efforts not to. You know it pleases most folks to be thought smart. "If that is the case what is it you want to know?" asked Billy more pleasantly.

"I want to know what kind of food Jerry Muskrat eats," replied Reddy. "I want to know what food he is especially fond of. What does he like to store up for winter? Do you know?"

"Of course I know," replied Billy Mink promptly. "It would be funny if I didn't, seeing as much of him as I do. For one thing he is very fond of mussels or fresh-water clams. What do you want to know for, anyway?" Billy looked at Reddy suspiciously.

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Leading Pearl Fishery

The world's most important pearl fishery is in the Persian gulf.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription makes weak women strong. No alcohol. Sold by druggists in tablets or liquid.—Adv.

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Mrs. Janette Frazier of 2428 Union Ave., Bakersfield, Calif., said: "My meals would distress me, I had much gas in my stomach and suffered from gas pressure—pains around my heart. I was miserable until I started taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. A few bottles regulated my digestive organs and I was soon enjoying my meals again." New size, tablets 50 cts., liquid $1.00.

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DON'T let constipation get a permanent grip on you. GARFIELD TEA gives you the prompt, thorough laxative cleansing that helps get rid of constipating wastes. Snap out of that chronic hopeless feeling! Begin the GARFIELD TEA treatment tonight. (*Plain—or in tea bags—at your drug store*)

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In Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil much of the work is already done . . . the oil in it has been made easy to digest—easy to be taken into the blood. The body rests while the oil nourishes.

Scott's Emulsion is wonderful for old people! Its bountiful supply of vitamin A builds tissue, fights germs, establishes resistance to "colds" and corresponding ills. Its vitamin D nourishes and strengthens the bones. Don't be without a bottle—take it regularly. Pure, trustworthy for sixty years—and today better than ever! All druggists—60c and $1.20.

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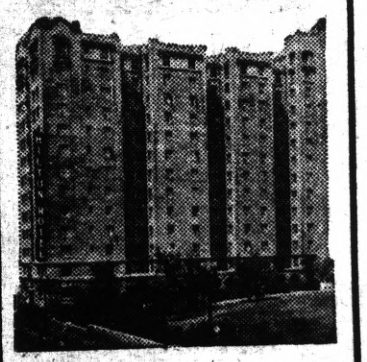

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Fashion Declares in Favor of Gold

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

WELL, anyway, fashion is coming out strong for the gold standard no matter what the rest of the world may be doing about it. Enthusiasm for gold is that keen in style circles that not only are accessories of golden metal being shown in countless numbers but for state occasions milady goes arrayed in shimmering gold from the crown of her exquisite coiffed head to the sole of her dainty sandaled feet.

If you are dressed up for afternoon tea or an afternoon reception or a musicale or whatever the happy event quite the most modish thing you can do is to enliven your best black frock with a dash of gold here and there.

If there is one place more than another where the gold fever is spreading it is throughout neckwear departments. The most wonderful discoveries in the way of gold findings come to light there. You will see, for instance, perfectly fascinating gold lame tissuelike weaves (in silver, too, if you prefer) fashioned into softly draped collar and cuff ensembles which set off even the plainest of frocks to perfection. You are supposed to wear these adorable fantasies with your crepe or velvet or light woolen afternoon gowns just like the young woman seated below to the right in the picture is wearing hers. Her draped collar is held in place with a rhinestone clip.

You can also get sets on this order which include detachable scarfs and bib effects and other equally fascinating accents which are spangled with scintillating sequins. There is nothing smarter for after five o'clock dress-up occasions than sequins. You can get the most charming little handbags worked solidly with sequins in gold or silver to match the bandings which outline the neck and sleeves or yoke effects of so many of the new velvet dresses so much in favor.

Among the scores of intriguing articles of adornment brought out this season there are perhaps none more attractive than the new metal-mesh accessories. They include stunning belts, capelets, whimsical evening jackets, and even hats are made of this metal mesh which is almost as light as a feather. Just to give you an idea of these decorative fancies we are picturing at the top to the right in this group a foursome consisting of a cunning little hat, a deep cape collar with cavalier cuffs and a supple wide belt to match. You can buy these flattering items single or en suite in any specialty or department store.

It is not only that accessories and jewelry have so enthusiastically subscribed to the gold code, for bright metals have worked their way into the very warp and woof of this season's materials and into knitted effects as well. The handsome afternoon dress, which is posed below on the left on the standing figure, is made of gold-studded crepe. The fold around the neckline and the fine pleating which trims it is of gold tisue. The buttons are gold.

The hat and the veil continue the gold theme.

Metal cloth is also a first choice for high-style evening gowns. The young woman seated on the divan in the picture wears a lovely creation which is fashioned of shimmering, glimmering crinkled gold lame. The very simplicity with which this gown is styled accents its elegance. The hood drapery across the shoulders of the little jacket interprets a new detail which is being featured throughout the mode. The gown itself is cut extremely decollette at the back with a high cowl effect across the front. The little cap of gold net is enhanced with an applique of slender gold leaves.

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FLASHES FROM PARIS

Silhouettes are tall and slender.

Evening hats accent the formal note.

The quilting idea is a strong trimming feature.

A new flare is achieved through front fullness.

Emphasis is on jacket ensembles for evening wear.

Simple gowns in rich materials carry the message for evening.

Youthful off-face hats combine silhouette of the bonnet and the toque.

Velvet Capes Supply New Note to Winter Costumes

The ensemble completed by a long cape presents an interesting phase of winter fashion. It is not the type for everyone, but is a mode of distinction intended for women with distinction enough to wear it well. They make use of no less than three fabrics, but the cape is velvet which seems most important of all. It is a model that might be very satisfactorily copied, substituting a fur cape by a muff and good looking hat is worth thinking about.

Deep Fringe

This gown is designed especially for the woman who is going on a cruise, but it is generally practical and attractive. It is of black mossy crepe, with a deep fringe that gives a graceful effect.

Various Blue Shades Are Popular for Sports Wear

Rivaling the dark rich tones which are so smart for formal costumes are the various shades of blue which continue to be exceedingly popular for sports. Navies, gray blues, soft medium shades and purply tones are all being shown in tweed and knitted outfits for casual wear.

Blue is a color which many women find becoming. Formerly limited to spring and summer wear, it is now an all-year-round favorite.

A typical sports ensemble is made of roguish diagonal woolen which suggests a hand-loomed fabric. The short jacket is double-breasted with notched lapels. The skirt has stitched-down pleats in the front.

Over this is worn a loose raglan coat of the tweed, in three-quarter length. The sleeves of the coat are slightly full, fitted in at the wrist with inverted tucks. A wide shawl collar of beaver lends richness and warmth, and there is a luxurious pillow muff to match.

Fur-Trimmed Frocks

Fur trims fashionable frocks this year in ways both old and new. The use of fur around throats and around heels has given the mode a luxurious finish not equaled in many years.

Vitamins

Vitamins are more strictly regulatory and are often defined as the "spark" which enables the body to make the best use of the other foodstuffs.

End Serious Coughs With Creomulsion

Don't let them get a strangle hold. Fight germs quickly. Creomulsion combines the 7 best helps known to modern science. Powerful but harmless. Pleasant to take. No narcotics. Your own druggist is authorized to refund your money on the spot if your cough or cold is not relieved by Creomulsion. (adv.)

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Ages 1 to 75

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OFF COMES FAT Hips—Bust—Chin

GET THAT KRUSCHEN FEELING

Gain Physical Attractiveness — Be Free From Constipation, Gas, Acidity and Liver Troubles

Here's the recipe that banishes fat and brings into blossom all the natural attractiveness that every woman possesses.

Every morning take one half teaspoonful of Kruschen Salts in a glass of hot water before breakfast—cut down on pastry and fatty meats—go light on potatoes, butter, cream and sugar—in 4 weeks get on the scales and note how many pounds of fat have vanished.

Notice also that you have gained in energy—your skin is clearer—your eyes sparkle with glorious health—you feel younger in body—keener in mind. Kruschen will give any fat person a joyous surprise.

Get a jar of Kruschen Salts—the cost is trifling and it lasts 4 weeks. If even this first jar doesn't convince you this is the easiest, safest and surest way to lose fat—if you don't feel a superb improvement in health—so gloriously energetic—vigorously alive—your money returned.

But be sure for your health's sake that you ask for and get Kruschen Salts. Get them at any drugstore in the world.

16½ Pounds of Fat Gone

"I've lost 16½ lbs. of fat and have taken about one-third of my second bottle of Kruschen. Sure feeling fine." Mrs. J. E. Burnworth, Fort Wayne, Ind.

WNU—12 49—33

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An Independent Democratic Newspaper That Stands Squarely Behind President Roosevelt's New Deal.

The PROGRESS stands for:
1. Abolishing city council "star chamber" sessions. VICTORY NO. 1
2. Modification or annulment of the Parr lease.
3. Amendment of our present 1909 City Charter.

(Continued from Front Page.)

blind him to the California vote this fall. Concerning repeal, it is interesting to note that prices of wines and liquor in 1933 are double those before prohibition.

Change, Change, Change

Change, ceaseless change, is the sign of life.

First to Attend Theater

The earliest record of a President's attending a theatrical performance states that President Monroe and his family in 1819 attended a performance at the Washington theater.—Questions and Answers.

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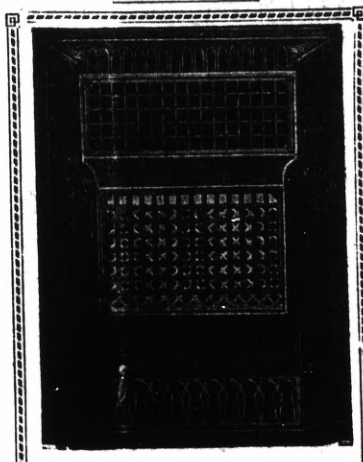

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NRA and Labor—The interesting topic of conversation now is "jobs" on the new projects created by the NRA The general reaction is of course very favorable. Why shouldn't it be when so many of us have been starving for work? And Jim Long and George Imbach are doubtless doing as well as any two humans could in dishing out the jobs. But there's plenty of bitter with the sweet, as they could doubtless tell you, what with: white rabbits and irate two-fisted starving men and "how come these men who are not on relief rolls get all the foremen's jobs?' and "they tell me that dredge outfit works the men nine hours a day and pays them for eight, how does that square with NRA?" etc., etc,, far into the night. But, as stated abov , these are incidents that only slightly mar the picture and generally speaking all the men are happy and contented, and mighty glad for a chance to work.

Alaska's Forest Moving

The forest of Alaska is marching northward, Prof. Robert E. Griggs of George Washington university, reported. "Instead of being held in check by climatic factors," he said, "the forest is rapidly migrating into new territory."

Our Personal Loan Plan . .

Offers Bank Credit to Salary and Wage Workers

Small loans to persons not within the lending scope of our Commercial Department can be made through our Personal Loan Plan.

We desire to help those who are confronted with unexpected expense, or who may have got in the hole through reduced incomes before they could readjust expenses.

We expect, of course, that borrowers adopt a sound plan for managing their finances and that they will stick it out and repay the r loan and not yield to the many easy ways of getting in the hole again. Inquiries are invited.

The Mechanics Bank
RICHMOND: 9th & Macdonald
EL CERRITO: Fairmont and San Pablo; Potrero and San Pablo

"IT MUST be a little lonely for you here," said Mrs. Carter to Millie, who was cutting up raisins in a bowl.

"Oh, no, I like it."

"But you know so few people; even we are strangers to you. You've come from so far to help me, and it worries me. I want you to be happy with us."

Millie flung her cloud of dark curls over her shoulder. "Worries you, Mrs. Carter?" She was round-eyed with astonishment. "I wouldn't know how to start worrying! I like it here, fine."

Mrs. Carter felt gently rebuked. That night she mentioned Millie to her husband. "Here she is, Charles; eighteen years old, no father, no mother, no money, no home, but where the State Commission chooses to send her, and she says, Charles, she wouldn't even know how to start worrying. Isn't it pathetic?"

"I don't see how it's in the least pathetic," said her husband briskly. "I think it's darn good philosophy."

Her Basket Bulged and She Could Scarcely Speak.

"But it's Christmas time, Charles We can give her so little; she needs so much. It worries me."

"There you go again, doing the very thing she doesn't even know about. Give her what you can and be sure she'll take it with gratitude."

Millie fairly sparkled on Christmas Eve. She had baked bread and pudding and made three pies. She had scoured the house until it shone. She had even helped Mrs. Carter to wrap up gifts for the neighborhood. "Do let me take them. It's fun," she begged. "I love seeing how happy people are in their houses."

So Millie started out with a large basketful of gifts. "Poor little girl," sighed Mrs. Carter. "Everything for other people; none for herself."

At nine o'clock Millie was home again, cheeks red, hair blowing, looking, as Mr. Carter said, like one grand big time all by herself. Her basket bulged and she could scarcely speak for excitement. "Oh, Mrs Carter, there must be some mistake . . . but everywhere I went they gave me a present . . . all these . . . I don't understand!" She appealed to her mistress to come look for herself. On every package was "For Millie."

"You see," explained a friend next day, "we simply could not resist giving her something. She looked so happy when she brought the things . . . we couldn't help ourselves, and I judge every one else felt the same way."

"Tut-tut for all your worry!" grinned Mr Carter when informed of the miracle.

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Richmond Theater

Tonight, Will Rogers in "State Fair," 8 big stars. Tomorrow, "Her Bodyguard" and "Silk Express." Sun.-Mon., "I Loved You Wednesday" and "Melody Cruise." Tues.-Wed., "Bed of Roses" and "Hearts of Humanity." Thurs.-Fri., "Ann Carver's Profession" and "Arizona to Broadway."

Boston's Temperature

Boston is much warmer than inland points only a few miles away. Chestnut Hill and Cambridge are among nearby localities where the temperatures are lower. This difference in temperatures is attributed to Boston's proximity to the sea.

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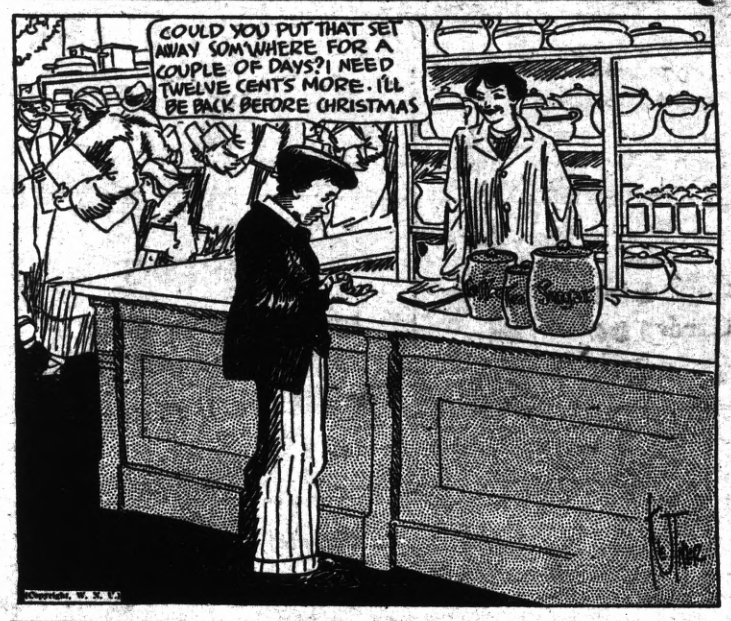
ODD THINGS AND NEW—By Lame Bode

WNU Service

Events in the Lives of Little Men



Had Their Meaning

The convivial husband had a friend to stay with him for the week end. When the guest was being shown up to his room he noticed that there were faint crosses on several of the steps. He asked the reason.

"Ah," whispered the host, "these come into operation after midnight. X means that the step creaks."

Joke of the Season

"Why, George! What are you laughing at?"

"Oh, I've just heard the best joke of the year."

"What is it?"

"Didn't you know that our maid has got a job in a china shop?"

HOW MANY?

"I suppose a lot of men will be made miserable when I marry."

"Why, how many men are you going to marry?"

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MORE SATISFACTION CAN'T BE BOUGHT FOR 5¢
WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT THE PERFECT GUM
THE FLAVOR LASTS
N.R.A.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pattison of Whittier are visiting with their relatives, the J. P. Smith, 33 Nevada, this week.

Mrs. Henry Grover, of High St., is visiting with her niece in Berkeley.

I AIN'T MAD AT NOBODY

But I am still doing business at the same old stand.

801 Macdonald Ave.

Where you will find the finest Christmas gifts in Men's Wear at Low Prices.

Ben Malik

Everything that Men and Boys Wear

Ralph Wood Elected Commander

The boys of San Juan Hill and the Phillipines decided on Ralph Wood for Commander next year. J. C. Bowden, C. C. Kratzer, J. E. Robbins and W. J. Avery were also elected. Geo. McCausland is adjutant, J. T. McCormac, service officer, and O. A. Poulsen, district inspector and a member of Admiral Dewey Camp here, will conduct joint installation with the auxiliary on January 5th, at which meeting a large crowd is expected.

JOHN'S GARAGE

Complete Automotive Service

103 W. Richmond Ave.
Point Richmond

100% Standard Gasoline and Oils

JOHN'S Service Station

Just Arrived!

A Fine Assortment of Box CHOCOLATES for the Christmas Holidays.

COZY COFFEE COUNTER

EASTERN STAR ORDER INSTALLS OFFICERS

(Continued from Front Page)

Features of the ceremony were the singing of Lester G. French, baritone, and Mrs. Daisie Jenkins, soprano. The former rendered "Home On the Range," "My Dream," and "On the Road to Mandalay" and Mrs. Jenkins sang "My Task," "In the Garden" and the "Star" song. Berenice Mills accompanied and Turner Brashear, violinist, was accompanied by Leone Orr.

Enclosed and Heated Option Floors At Kennel Club

Racing centers all over the country are commenting on the new enclosed mezzanine floor at the El Cerrito track. This is the only enclosed section for race fans anywhere in the Unitd States and places the local track at the top of the list in favor.

A HOME OWNED STORE — NEIGHBORHOOD STORES — STATE WIDE BUYING POWER — OVER 1000 STORES

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Joe Chasseur Ben Farina
FREE DELIVERY

EGGS--U. S. Extras No. 1
Strictly fresh
Large 26c doz. Med. 21c doz.

CHALLENGE BUTTER, solid lb..... 23c

HEINZ SOUP all varieties
Pint tins . . . 2 for 25c

DAIRY MAID MILK
Tall cans . . . 3 for 17c

JELL-WELL All Varieties
Package 5c

Pork and Beans Campbell's
Tall 16 oz. can 5c
BLUING Pa k Brand
Full 12 oz. bottle
liquid measure . . . 5c

P & G SOAP 10 bars 25c
IVORY Medium bar 5c
Ivory Flakes large pkg. 19c
SALAD OIL
16 oz botl 15c 32 oz botl 25c

Table Tennis Set Free with each 1 lb. can Thompson's Malted Milk . . 1 lb can 35c
Set is complete, Paddles, Ball and all.

Many other specials at store
Rights reserved to limit quantity

CHASSEUR'S GROCERY

Big Shooting!

(Continued from Front Page.)

Jones and Officers Bradeson and Blankenship who haae qualified as expert marksmen and are eligible for this more difficult target did not shoot Tuesday.

On the Army "L" Target, the following scores: Capt. Wylie, 241; Fray, 232; Povenmire, 226; Lilly, 224; Phipps, 220; Campbell, 211; Cox, 197; Hagerdon, 188; Grimes, 168; and Cundy, 152.

For those who have not kept up wth the annual target practice of "Richmond's finest" the Progress begs to aver that these are very fine scores, and our local force can hold its own with any around the bay.

Furniture

NEW - USED ANTIQUES

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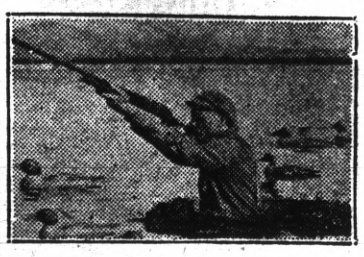
We make and remodel furniture to order.



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. . . For a number of reasons duck shooting is best at the Suisun marshes.

. And the ducks are better too..no fishy taste..due to the rich Suisun feeding grounds.

. . . Ask the tenders at these bridges for directions to "Steamboat" Slough and the other spots where shooting is good.

CARQUINEZ AND ANTIOCH BRIDGES

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Genuine Diamond Rings

18 K Solid gold. Price protection program priced as low as $7.50

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WALTHAM 15- Jewel $14.75

17 Jewel ladies diamond. 2 genuine Baquette Diamonds $29

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Pocket Watches, 17 Jewel. Elgin and Waltham..... 19.75

SILVER

"All Time" low price 26 piece, Rogers, 25 year guarantee Silver Plate Set. Stainless steel knives $6.95

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Cord 10c
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Smart Tie and Kerchief SETS boxed 98c

BILL-FOLD and COIN PURSE 49c

Sheep-Lined SLIPPERS 1.29

GIFTS for YOUNG MISSES

Pure Silk Hose 39c
Adonna Silk Undies 69c
3-pc. Toilet Sets 98c

GIFTS For LITTLE GIRLS

"NAN"—a doll 2.98c
Doll's Trunks 98c
Warm Indian Mocasins . . 49c

GIFTS FOR BOYS
2 pc. Tool Chests . . 98c
Sheep-lined Coats . 2.49
Electric Trains . . . 2.98

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